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Umbundu

Umbundu, or **South Mbundu** (autonym *úmbúndú*), one of many Bantu languages. It is the most widely spoken autochthonous language of Angola. Its speakers are known as *Ovimbundu* and are an ethnic group constituting a third of Angola's population. Their homeland is the Central Highlands of Angola and the coastal region west of these highlands, including the cities of Benguela and Lobito. Because of recent internal migration there are now also large communities in the capital Luanda and its surrounding province, as well as in Lubango.

Umbundu	
South Mbundu	
Úmbúndú	
Native to	Angola
Ethnicity	Ovimbundu
Native speakers	9.5 million
Language family	Niger–Congo ▪ Atlantic–Congo ▪ Volta-Congo ▪ Benue–Congo ▪ Bantoid ▪ Southern Bantoid ▪ Bantu (Zone R) ▪ **Umbundu**
Official status	
Official language in	Angola ("National language")
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	umb (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=473)
ISO 639-3	umb
Glottolog	umbu1257 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/umbu1257)[1]
Guthrie code	R.11[2]

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Phonology

Consonants

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	plain	p	t	t͡ʃ	k	
	prenasal.	ᵐb	ⁿd	ᶮd͡ʒ	ᵑg	
Fricative	voiceless	f	s			h
	voiced	v				
Nasal		m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
Approximant		w	l	j		

Vowels

	Front	Back
Close	i ĩ	u ũ
Mid	e ẽ	o õ
Open	a ã	

Tone

Umbundu has two tones: low and high. The first acute accent (á) in a word represents a high tone. The low tone is represented by a grave accent (à). Unmarked syllables carry the same tone as the preceding syllable.[3]

Vocabulary

- Welcome - Ukombe weya ("The guest has come")
- Hello - Wakolapo? (sg); Wakolipo? (pl)
- How are you? - Wakolapo? (sg); Wakolipo? (pl)
- I'm fine thanks, and you? - Ndakolapo ("I'm fine); Twakolapo ("We're fine)
- What's your name? – Velye olonduko vene? (frm); Helye onduko yove? (inf)
- My name is ... – Onduko yange ame ...
- Where are you from? – Pi ofeka yove? ("Where is your country?")
- I'm from ... – Ofeka yange ... ("My country is ...")
- Good morning – Utanya uwa
- Good afternoon – Ekumbi liwa
- Good evening – Uteke uwa
- Good night – Uteke uwa; Pekelapo ciwa ("Sleep well")
- Goodbye – Ndanda. ("I went")
- Do you speak English? – Ove ovangula inglese?
- Do you speak Umbundu? – Ove ovangula umbundu?
- Sorry – Ngecele (sg); Twecele (pl)
- Please – Ndinge ohenda. ("Give me pity")
- Thank you – Ndapandula (sg); Twapandula (pl)
- Reply – Lacimwe

Sample text

Omanu vosi vacitiwa valipwa kwenda valisoka kovina vyosikwenda komoko. Ovo vakwete esunga kwenda, kwenda olondunge kwenje ovo vatêla okuliteywila kuvamwe kwenda vakwavo vesokolwilo lyocisola.

Translation: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. (Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) vokussumba suko onhe?

References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Umbundu" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/umbu1257). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. New Updated Guthrie List Online (https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf)
3. Schadeberg, Thilo C. (1990). *A Sketch of Umbundu*.

Further reading

- Schadeberg, Thilo C. (1982). "Nasalization in Umbundu". *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. **4** (2): 109–132. doi:10.1515/jall.1982.4.2.109 (https://doi.org/10.1515%2Fjall.1982.4.2.109).
- Childs, Gladwyn M. (1949). *Umbundu Kinship and Character: Being a Description of Social Structure and Individual Development of the Ovimbundu*. London: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-8357-3227-4.

External links

- Umbundu Lessons (https://web.archive.org/web/20090831040458/http://ovimbundu.org/Educacao/)
- Umbundu alphabet (http://www.omniglot.com/writing/umbundu.htm)
- Dictionary Umbundu – Medical (https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B-1_C1Afflu5OTJiMTJhODMtNmVkMy00MGE3LTg2MDItN2Y5MTRhMjIwN2E4) Hospital Nossa Senhora da Paz, Cubal, Angola.

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